

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

**IN RE: NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION,
OPIATE LITIGATION**

MDL NO. 2804

Case No. 17-MD-2804

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

Judge Dan Aaron Polster

Rees v. McKesson Corporation, et al.

S.D. IL, C.A. #18-00511; MDL Case #1:18-OP-45252

Wood v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al

E.D. MO, C.A. #18-00385; MDL Case #1:18-OP-45264

Salmons v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al

S.D. WV, C.A. #18-00385; MDL Case #1:18-OP-45268;

Ambrosio v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al

C.D. CA, C.A. #18-02201; MDL Case #1:18-OP-45375

Flanagan v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al

W.D. TN, C.A. #18-02194; MDL Case #1:18-OP-45405

Whitley, et al. v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al

W.D. TN, C.A. #18-02290; MDL Case #1:18-OP-45598

Roach v. McKesson Corporation, et al.

E.D. LA, C.A. #18-04165; Transferred by CTO-27; awaiting MDL Case No.

Hunt v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al

D. MD, C.A. #18-01349; Transferred by CTO-32; awaiting MDL Case No.

**MOTION TO ESTABLISH
SEPARATE TRACK FOR OPIOID BABY CLAIMS**

Plaintiffs and Putative Class Representatives, through undersigned counsel, respectfully request that this Court establish a separate, limited track for “Opioid Babies” as described below.

As discussed at length in the attached supporting memorandum, these cases were brought on

behalf of persons born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). The Opioid Babies are as identifiable as they are blameless, and their interests are currently unrepresented in the ongoing settlement discussions and in the various limited tracks and committees recognized by the Court. They are suffering now and present the Court with the unique opportunity to assure delivery of life-changing medical intervention and a chance at a productive adult life.

The Motion and Relief Requested

Plaintiffs ask that the Court issue one or more Orders creating a separate limited discovery and litigation track for centralized discovery, case development, and bellwether trial(s) of Opioid Baby claims in this MDL. The relief requested requires modification of this Court's CMO #1 in MDL 2804. It likely also requires a new Case Management Order governing the new track, which Plaintiffs are prepared to propose to the Court. Within the order creating this track, it is respectfully requested that the Court:

1.

Authorize and direct specialized discovery and case development steps in a track unique to the claims of the "Opioid Babies," or persons born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

2.

Authorize proceedings against selected Defendants and using selected theories of the law, including theories unique, or particularly well suited, for the Opioid Babies' Claims.

3.

Direct counsel for the centralized efforts in the Opioid Baby track to coordinate non-unique discovery efforts where possible with centralized discovery efforts common to all centralized cases, and direct counsel for other tracks to coordinate these efforts.

4.

Select lead, coordinating, committee and trial counsel for the track.

5.

Select one or more bellwether cases, schedule them for trial and try the cases to verdicts and judgments.

6.

Define the role, and direct involvement of lead counsel for the track, in settlement negotiations but prohibit settlement without prior approval of the Court.

7.

Issue additional directions to counsel and the parties to govern the Opioid Baby track in the best interests of the track.

For all of these reasons, more fully expressed in the attached memorandum, Plaintiffs pray that their motion is granted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Scott R. Bickford

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 31st day of May, 2018, a copy of the above and foregoing has been electronically filed with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which provides an electronic service notification to all counsel of record registered as CM/ECF users.

/s/SCOTT R. BICKFORD